

CALIFORNIA BOARD OF OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY

INITIAL STATEMENT OF REASONS

Hearing Date: August 25, 2005

Subject Matter of Proposed Regulations: Fees

Section(s) Affected: Title 16, Division 39, California Code of Regulations, Section 4130

SPECIFIC PURPOSE OF THE REGULATIONS:

The specific purpose of the regulation is to amend California Code of Regulations section 4130 to reduce the fees for license or certification renewal, delinquent renewal, and limited permits.

FACTUAL BASIS/NECESSITY:

Existing law authorizes the Board to charge occupational therapists and occupational therapy assistants a license or certification renewal fee not to exceed \$150 annually and a delinquent fee that is 50% of the renewal fee. When the Board was established, the renewal fees were set at the maximum amount of \$150 to create a fiscally sound fund condition in an amount necessary to support its regulatory activities. To date, the Board has licensed over 9,600 practitioners and the fund condition now supports a reduction in fees. The proposed regulation would reduce renewal fees to \$50 annually and delinquent fees to \$25.

Limited permits are issued to new graduates for a period of four months to allow them time to take and pass the licensing examination given by the National Board for Certification in Occupational Therapy (NBCOT). If the limited permit holder is successful in passing the first examination prior to the permit's expiration date, the fee for the limited permit is applied to the initial license or certificate fee. If the limited permit holder fails the examination or fails to take the examination before the permit's expiration date, the fee is forfeited. Current regulations set the fees for a limited permit at \$100 and the initial license fee at \$150. Initial license or certificate fees are prorated based on the applicant's birth month and the month the license or certificate is issued, and can range from \$75 to \$212.50. The proposed regulation would reduce the fee for a limited permit from \$100 to \$75. The proposal would eliminate the need to process refunds of \$25 or less to limited permit holders whose initial license or certificate fees are less than \$100. The proposal would also reduce the amount of money forfeited by those limited permit holders who do not pass the examination.

UNDERLYING DATA:

California Board of Occupational Therapy CALSTARS Reports and Fund Condition.

BUSINESS IMPACT:

This regulation will not have a significant adverse economic impact on business. The proposed regulation will only affect licensees and certificate holders.

SPECIFIC TECHNOLOGIES OR EQUIPMENT:

This regulation does not mandate the use of specific technologies or equipment.

CONSIDERATION OF ALTERNATIVES:

No reasonable alternative to the regulation would be either more effective in carrying out the purpose for which the action is proposed or would be as effective and less burdensome to affected private persons than the proposed regulations.